

Topsham Vt. Sep. 22. 1860

Dear Mr. Garrison.

On 119. As our State Convener approaches my anxiety for you to be there increases. When we were making our preliminary calculations and arrangements the friends in Boston & Mass. assured me that you could not come. You were then at Northumberland N. H. for health. But as the time of our meeting draws nigh I am sorry I did not make more effort to secure your presence & aid. I am not authorized by our Committee to invite you, but on my own responsibility I hereby do most sincerely and earnestly express my desire that you may attend. We will greatly need you. Your presence at such a Convention would do great good; and your voice for the truth & right

would tend greatly to advance our  
holy Cause in Vermont. I am  
aware that your health has been  
fable, but a trip to Bradford might  
do you good. You would need to  
be absent from home only four  
days. The cause & the crisis  
demand your presence if you  
can at all come. We have the  
promise of good help, but we  
will need more. We want Mr.  
Garrison if possible.

If you cannot come, I will  
be greatly pleased if you can  
write us a characteristic letter  
which we may read before the  
Convention. Please address  
me at Topsham at your  
earliest convenience.

Praying that the blessing of  
the God of the Oppressed may  
be yours. I am, dear friend,

Yours for the right. A. R. Johnston.

P. S. Monday 24<sup>th</sup>: Just as I was closing-finishing - the foregoing pages I was interrupted & the interruption was continued until it was too late to get my letter into the evening mail. And now since the interruption is gone, I will to inquire of you who & what my interrupter was. He announced his name as "Pratt of Boston". From extracts from papers which he showed me I saw his name was Daniel Pratt. I suspect from what the papers said he is a somewhat notorious character. He seemed so suspicious, or rather so near a crazy man - at least "non compos mentis" - I did not announce a public meeting for him as he wished me. He evidently came hoping that I would get up an Anti-Slavery meeting. He remained with me over Sunday, & this forenoon took his departure evidently disappointed, if

not displeased that I did not do more for him. My curiosity was much excited. I think I once saw some sheet in Boston published by the "great American Traveller" probably the same plate: but I am not certain but that this is the man who at our Anniversary in the Melodeon in May attempted to speak from the stairs & whom Mr. Quincy called to order.

Mr. Brown in his late letter in the Liberator gives a dark picture of Vermont. The reality is dark enough, but he gave the dark side. His most successful meetings in numbers & in pay he does not at all mention.

He is right, however, in what he says of the need of more labor.

With the warmest wishes for your health, prosperity, & success in the glorious cause,  
I am, dear friend, yours truly - A. R. Johnston.